letters of Intent have been granted to MRTP/FERA companies from January, 1987 to March, 1989. The details of the projects taken up by these companies during this pertod are published by the Indian Investment Centre in their 'Monthly Newsletter". The copies of this publication are being furnished to the Parliament Library regularly.

Newsprint Factory at Trichur, Kerala

2353. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether clearance has been given for the setting up of a newsprint factory in Trichur in Kerala ;

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost of this unit and when this will start production ; and

(c) what are the details of the products and also the production capacity of the factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) A Letter of Intent dated 15-5-1985 has been granted to the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Limited for establishment of a new undertaking in District Trichur in the State of Kerala for manufacture of newsprint as well as glazed magazine paper for an annual capacity of 20 thousand tonnes each. According to the estimates indicated by the Corporation in February, 1985, the investment on land, building and machinery required for the project would be Rs. 35·50 crores. No definite indication is available about the likely time by which the undertaking would be established and commercial production started. The Letter of intent is valid upto 31-5-1990.

Closure of Holding Companies under Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.

2354. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has assured a deligation of various unions on the 29th November, 1988 that no unit of the holding company under the Bhart Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd. will be closed down and that closure notices on Raniganj No. 2 and Durgapur refractory units would be wtthdrawn ; and

(b) if so, whether the said assurance has been implemented and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Memorandum from India Meters Thozhilalar Sangam, Madras

2355. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a memorandum dated the 29th March, 1989 has been received by Government from India Meters Thozhilalar Sangam, Madras;

(b) if so, what are the details of the memorandum ; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government on the problems mentioned in the memorandum ; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The memorandum is against the proposal to merge India Meters Ltd. with another unit.

(c) The matter regarding the merger will be decided by the Department of Company Affairs who will take into account all aspects of the case before arriving at a decision.

Request of Assam Government for Enhanced Oil Royalty

2356. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam has been requesting the Central Government to increase the rate of Oil royalty by Rs. 150·00 per MT ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the demand of Assam Government is less than one third of the demand of the Government of Gujarat ; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) to (c) Government of Gujarat and Government of Assam have demanded increases in the rate of royalty on crude oil production from Rs. 192·00 per MT to Rs. 683·50 and Rs. 340·00 per MT respectively. The next review of the rate of royalty would take into account all relevant factors, including the views of the concerned State Governments.

LPG agencies and Petrol pump Dealerships in Uttar Pradesh

2357. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of L.P. gas agencies and petrol pump dealerships allotted during 1988 in Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) when these agencies and petrol pump dealerships were advertised and how much time was taken in the final selection ; and

(c) what are the names of persons to whom gas agencies and petrol pump dealerships were given in 1988 in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) During the calendar year 1988, 28 LPG distributorships and 47 Retail Outlet (Petrol/Diesel) Dealerships were allotted in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The required information is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 145].

Subsidy on LPG Cylinders

2358. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the amount of subsidy given by Government on LPG cylinders supplied to the consumers and its percentage in relation to the cost of the LPG cylinder ; and

(b) what is the total amount of subsidy given by Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) The amount of subsidy on LPG cylinders